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Washington : Sergeant Megan Aigner of the DC National Guard looks inside a box with a traditional Thanksgiving dinner provided for military families as part of Operation Homefront at the DC National Guard Armory in Washington, DC, yesterday. The organization, with Harris Teeter supermarkets and MillerCoors, donates holiday meals to 400 military families in the DC area. (AFP PHOTO)

## NOW OPEN!

### KFC @ Palm Beach

Media feedback follows a successful Aruba In Style 2012 Fashion Week  
International media has dubbed local fashion designer Ronchi de Cuba the  
"Karl Lagerfeld" of Aruba

This year, the second annual Aruba In Style Fashion Week proved even more popular among international media. The event was a huge success with local and international designers presenting a series of runway shows and collection presentations during cocktail parties at trendy hot-spots around the island. More than 40 International press members were present to give coverage to this grand event.

Recently, two articles published regarding Aruba's signature fashion week by Style, named creativity the highlight of the event. In the popular blog "Fashionista" of New York, the name Ronchi de Cuba was frequently mentioned as a legend in Aruba. His successful agency 'Model Search' was compared to "America's Next Top Model."



Another fashion blog, "Daily Front Row" also give Ronchi tremendous coverage. The author mentions being totally fascinated with Mr. de Cuba, who presented his collection during a fabulous show at a mansion at Tierra Del Sol. In an interview with Ronchi, the designer shared that last year he did not participate at the event as he was also part of the organizing team. He cited



such fashion weeks as AIS are known to boost tourism. Interest in fashion is growing around the world and Aruba has to find their niche in that market.

Aruba loves fashion and islanders have their own unique style. What is the typical fashion of Aruba? According to Ronchi, "it is mixture of good taste, showing off a little but not much, being loose and beautiful with lots of fluidity during the day. Once the sun sets, the tone changes to: "just having fun."

The local designer shared that his real name is Ronald and Ronchi is his nickname. His grandfather used to call him that as he considered the name Ronald a little heavy for a baby. It is local custom to add



a "chi" to the end of a word or name to signify something small and cute, which is why he would call him "Ron-chi."

Continued on page 2

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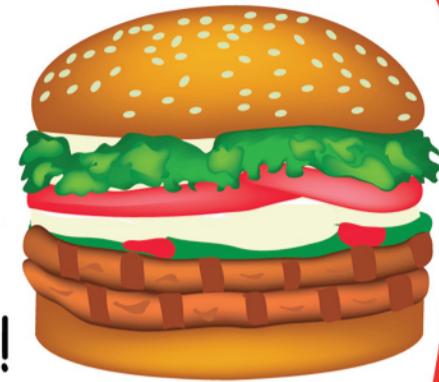


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## Office Systems demonstrates international savvy!



With the production of the furniture needs of the international Juan Valdez outlet here, Office Systems Aruba demonstrated their expert savvy in the fabrication of furniture to the stringent requirements of an international customer.

The new store is based on an international concept with lots of requirements, nonetheless, Office Systems Aruba was able to comply with all of their stringent demands and deliver an expert product to their complete satisfaction.

General Manager of Office Systems Aruba, Carlos Maduro, indicated that, "Aruba can be proud to have a company that can open doors for talented young people to



prove themselves. Our vision has no limit; we are willing to test areas that are new to us." They were happy to report that all of the furniture for the Juan Valdez Café was completely fabricated here in Aruba.

Office Systems Aruba has been around since 1992 and has always been known for their high quality European furniture and articles for offices. For some time now they have been exploring the market of furniture assembly in Aruba. They invested heavily in modern equipment and prepared their employees to be able to design and assemble furniture in Aruba. This very year, the renowned Dauphin brand of Germany accredited Office Systems to assemble their furniture here in Aruba.

Office Systems is growing

daily not only in the sale of furniture, but also in the design of furniture to clients' specifications both on the commercial as well as in the individual home markets.

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## Ronchi de Cuba the "Karl Lagerfeld" of Aruba

Continued from page 1

To be compared with Lagerfeld is a great honor for Ronchi as Lagerfeld is considered worldwide as the 'King of Fashion.'

"For me to be given that title in the article in the New York Press is a huge honor," stated Ronchi. "Daily Front Row," which covers different fashion weeks around the world featured me, talking about my collection and about Aruba. I was even asked if I am the "Mayor" of Aruba, to which I responded "no, I wish."

Ronchi felt it was very im-

portant for him to present his collection on an international level. He has received invitations to present his collection at various Fashion Weeks, and beginning January 2013 he's going to accept them, beginning with "Colombia Moda," and "IMG."

Ronchi also wanted to share with the community that his boutique 'Trash by Ronchi' just received a new collection, especially for the upcoming holidays, for both men and women.. There is something glamorous for everyone, including plus sizes.



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## Bubali Plas getting government's deserved attention!



*Aruba's Bubali Bird Sanctuary*

Bubali Plas is by any standard, a nature's treasure, which needs to be protected, preserved and conserved. This area is recognized around the world as a very important area for migrating birds and a breeding area. In order to maintain and improve the area we must take action to improve the entire area around the water settlement known as the Bubali Plas.

The area should also be

prepared in such a manner as to allow citizens to enjoy the beauty of this nature's treasure in harmony with the birds. With some small changes it can become an educational as well as recreational area. Bird watching is an important niche which can be added to our tourism attraction portfolio. It is an area which invites nature lovers from around the world to come and observe birds from all over the world.



*Tri-colored Heron searching for a meal at Bubali Bird Sanctuary.*

The government is of the opinion that it is, indeed, worth the while to protect and conserve this entire area. It ought to be seen as part of our cultural heritage to be preserved.

Three organizations: Tera Aruba Foundation, Aruba Bird Life Conservation and the National Arikok Park in-



*A small group of sea birds rest in late afternoon sun-shine at Aruba's Bubali Bird Sanctuary*

tend to join forces together to create a particular status of the Bubali Plas Conservation within the National Arikok Park.

The government sees the importance and potential for amplifying the National Arikok Park with the Bubali Plas and the Tera Park. They are convinced that this will add diversity and a new experience to the tourism product and should be part of our tourism sustainability. The project will consist of a bota-

nical garden, an interactive program of Aruban flora and a center for bird observation. At the same time it should function as an educational center for our community.

According to the government, the project will be supported by the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund as it is part of the protection and improvement of a special attraction and contributes to the enhancement of the Aruba Product.

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL



## Former informateur Camelia appointed as Formateur

WILLEMSTAD – Former Informateur Glenn Camelia was appointed by Acting Governor Adele van der Pluijm-Vrede to be the formateur (the one who forms the new government) of the Curacao government. The willingness declaration was signed by the parties Pueblo Soberano (PS 5 seats), PAIS (4 seats) and PNP (1 seat). These 10 seats which do not form a majority will be reinforced by the former PAR member and now independent member of Parliament Glenn Sulvaran.

The chairmen of the parties and the independent Member of Parliament have expressed

the wish that the informateur is appointed formateur. The outcome of the judicial investigation and the state security investigation with his consent on the basis of Article 2, fourth paragraph, of the Ordinance integrity (candidate) ministers was already performed. This screening came out positive and therefore could not stop the appointment of Mr. Camelia as formateur.

The governor has indicated that Camelia must ensure that the new Ordinance integrity (candidate) Ministers must be observed. Camelia must report his findings by December 14.

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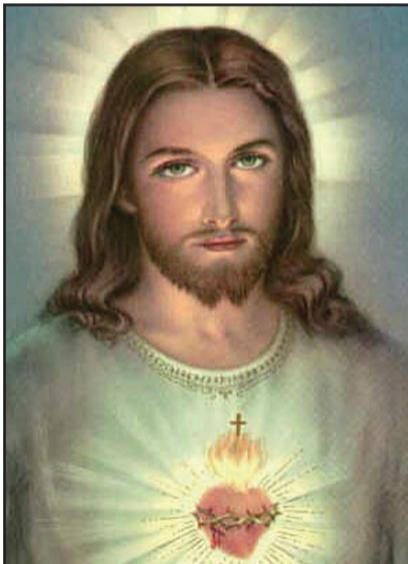
## Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green

[www.people-self-development.com](http://www.people-self-development.com)

### Is Jesus Relevant Today?

I have very seldom written about religion or about Jesus Christ. The reason - I have always thought that religion is too private and should not be discussed in a newspaper. But, the more I thought about that the more I am convinced how wrong I was to think this. Because, the truth is religion is a very vital part of the total fiber of our society. If we remove religion from society, we will cease to be a society. And, while I use the term "religion" I realize that religion in and of itself is not what matters, but that Jesus Christ is who matters.



#### Jesus and Religion:

Many people believe that Jesus Christ wants us to become religious. What's worse, many believe that Jesus should not be a part of our everyday life, because they believe that He came to take the fun out of life, and to give us a bunch of stupid rules to live by. To many people, Jesus was a great leader of the past, like say, John F. Kennedy or Martin Luther King, Jr., but that He is not relevant to their lives today in this 21st century. Well, the big question I am asking you today is...Is Jesus relevant today? And, if He is, in what way is He relevant, and what does His relevance mean to me?

When I say to someone that I believe in Jesus Christ and that He is relevant and means everything to me, they look at me and ask if I'm really serious. I have even had people say to me..."oh, for God's sake, don't give me that garbage." Others say that they are fed up with religion, with the church and church people. They have said that there are too many

hypocrites who talk about Jesus and live totally contrary to what Jesus taught. Well, to tell the truth, I too don't want any part of religious hypocrisy. So, I focus on Jesus and not on religion....and there is a big difference! Religion cannot meet my deepest needs, nor can religion answer my questions and give me meaning, but Jesus can and does!

**Three questions of life:**  
Jesus answers the three biggest questions of life:

1. Who am I,
2. Why am I here,
3. Where do I go from here (after death)?

It is true that philosophers and religious leaders down through the years have offered answers to these questions, but only Jesus Christ proved his credentials by rising from the dead! Jesus offers life with real meaning. He said that life is much more than making money, having a good time, being successful, and then dying and getting buried. Yet, many people today still try to find meaning in riches, fame and success.

#### Madonna confesses:

I read about Madonna who tried to answer the question of, "Why am I here?" by becoming a diva. But, she confessed not too long ago that..."There were many years when I thought fame, fortune, and public approval would bring me happiness. But one day you wake up and realize they don't...I still felt something was missing...I wanted to know the meaning of true and lasting happiness and how I could go about finding it."

Others have given up on finding meaning in their lives. You would recall Kurt Cobain, lead singer of the Seattle band Nirvana, who despaired at age 27 and took his own life. Jazz-age cartoonist Ralph Barton also felt meaningless and committed suicide. In a suicide note Barton wrote: "I have had few difficulties, many friends, great successes; I have gone from wife to wife, and from house to house, visited countries of the world, but I am fed up with inventing devices to fill up 24 hours of the day."

#### Pascal on God:

Pascal, the great French philosopher believed that the inner void we all experience can only be filled by God. He wrote: "There's a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which only Jesus Christ can fill."

Pascal is right; there is no meaning to life without God! I know, especially men who have achieved some measure of success will tell me that God is only a convenience, or at best something to have to complement your sense of personhood.

*Continued on page 5*

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## Pointers: Is Jesus . . .?

Continued from page 4

But as a millionaire friend of mine, who came to Aruba many years ago for a Governor's Prayer Breakfast, said: with all my millions and life's comforts, I have come to realize that the emptiness I had was because those things never gave me the satisfaction and happiness I found when I trusted my life to Jesus Christ. And, Ford Mason, the inventor of the gum machine we still see around in stores today, said, today I am truly fulfilled and genuinely happy not because of what I have, but because of Who I have in my life – Jesus Christ!

### How to know Jesus Christ:

God is more than a force, He is a person whom we can know and enjoy. God is relational like us, He thinks, He hears and communicates in a language we can understand. He knows each of us intimately and personally and delights to have a personal relationship with us! This makes Him very relevant to us today.

Jesus demonstrated God's love for us. He, Jesus Christ,

wants to have a personal relationship with us. I have often said, no man is really a man until he has God in his life, in a dynamic and personal way...not just empty words, but really and truly living for God. Material, monetary success is like a bubble that can burst, and when it bursts, without Christ in your life, you are left totally empty and devastated! Including Jesus Christ in our lives is so easy and simple: acknowledge our sinfulness, ask for His forgiveness in all sincerity, and determine to walk away from sin (our old life we know is wrong) we call this repentance, and commit our life totally to Him for Him to lead and control. And, leave all the consequences of our new commitment to Him. What will happen to us will simply amaze us, the transformation will be unbelievable but wonderful to behold!!

*If this was helpful, feel free to offer your comments at: tonygreen.morningnews@h otmail.com.*

## Director of Kingdom Relations visits Aruba Lieutenant Governor



Recently, Director of Kingdom Relations, Erwin Arkenbout paid a courtesy visit to Aruba Lieutenant Governor Mrs. Ella Tromp-Yarzagaray.

The Directorate of Kingdom Relations handles cooperation with the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The Directorate gives policy advice to the Dutch Minister of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations and handles intra-departmental coordination in the execution of the policy of the Dutch Government in The Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The Directorate is also responsible for planning, setting up and executing programs and projects to stimulate cooperation with the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

Mr. Arkenbout is accompanied by Mr. Gerard van der Wulp, Dutch Representative for St. Maarten, Curacao and Aruba. Van der Wulp is established in Curacao but he will divide his time between the three countries under his responsibility.

Photo shows Mrs. Tomp-Yarzagaray with, at left, Mr. Arkenbout and, at right, Mr. Van der Wulp.



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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Israeli air strikes kill 26 in Gaza



An Israeli soldier evacuates a young girl from a site hit by a rocket launched by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip in the southern Israeli city of Beer Sheva yesterday.

GAZA CITY -- Six more Palestinians were killed in Israeli raids last night, raising the day's toll to 26, as talk of an imminent truce failed to slow the pace of Israeli strikes.

More than 1,000 people have also been injured in Gaza since the conflict began with Israel's targeting of a senior

Hamas military commander.

"Two cameramen from Al-Aqsa TV have been killed, health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra told AFP, saying the strike hit a car in Gaza City's Nasser area that was clearly marked as a press vehicle.

## European police roll up sham marriage gang

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Police have busted a gang exchanging fake marriages for large sums of money to give illegal immigrants European Union citizenship, European law enforcement agencies said yesterday.

The Europol and Eurojust agencies said in a combined statement from The Hague that a total of 24 people had been arrested.

Police in Britain, France and Portugal arrested the suspects who were allegedly part of a sham marriage scam involving Indian, Nigerian, Pakistani and Portuguese citizens.

"Investigations established that the Portuguese organised crime group had been recruiting prospective brides and grooms in Portugal," the statement said.

In return, it was offering, "in exchange for large sums of money, the possibility for persons without any residence permits to marry in various (EU) member states and apply for EU citizenship a few years later."

Police pounced simultaneously in Britain, France and Portugal and searched a total of 23 homes and an office.

"Seizures include cash, documentation, mobile telephones, SIM cards, computers, one hard disk drive and 1.5 kilograms of hashish," the statement said.

### DR Congo rebels capture Goma, accused of atrocities

GOMA, DR Congo (AFP) - Rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday seized the key eastern city of Goma amid warnings of a humanitarian catastrophe, with the United Nations and others reporting killings, abductions, looting and extortion of civilians.

Locals however cheered and applauded two vehicles full of rebels as they drove around the city centre after fighters of the M23 movement marched into the city facing little resistance.

Witnesses reported that rebel chief Sultani Makenga had arrived in the capital of

mineral-rich North Kivu province, capping a week-long advance by the M23.

In a radio broadcast, rebel spokesman Vianney Kazarama appealed for calm and ordered police and government soldiers to surrender on Wednesday morning at Goma's football stadium.

While the rebels claimed to have captured both the city and its airport, a UN spokesman said peacekeepers were in control of the airport and that UN forces were still on patrol in the city.

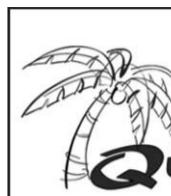
The UN has around 1,500 "quick reaction" peacekeepers in Goma, part of some 6,700

troops in North Kivu province, backing government forces against the rebels.

The UN defended its peacekeepers after Goma fell, saying a battle for the city would have put civilians at risk.

"Fifteen hundred in a city of a million, there has to be a value judgement made," said UN deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey.

"Do you open fire and put civilians at risk or do you hold your fire, continue your patrols, observe what is happening and remind the M23 that they are subject to international humanitarian and human rights law."



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## Sesame puppeteer resigns, sex claims 'distraction'

NEW YORK (AFP) - The puppeteer behind the beloved "Sesame Street" character Elmo has resigned following allegations that he had sexual relationships with underage teens.

In a statement issued yesterday, Kevin Clash said he was leaving the popular US children's television show after nearly three decades with a "heavy heart," but needed to settle the allegations against him "privately."

Sesame Workshop, which produces the show, said the controversy swirling around the 52-year-old Clash had become a "distraction" that could not be overcome, calling it "a sad day for Sesame Street."

Last week, Clash -- who is openly gay -- took a leave of absence from the show after a man said the pair had had sex several years ago, when the accuser was only 16 -- a claim Clash firmly denied. The man later dropped the claim.

But yesterday, celebrity website TMZ.com reported that a second man, identified as Cecil Singleton, had filed a lawsuit claiming the pair had a relationship when he was under the age of consent.

"Unfortunately, the controversy surrounding Kevin's per-

sonal life has become a distraction that none of us wants," Sesame Workshop said, adding that Clash "has concluded that he can no longer be effective in his job and has resigned."

"Sesame Workshop's mission is to harness the educational power of media to help all children the world over reach their highest potential," it said.

"Kevin Clash has helped us achieve that mission for 28 years, and none of us, especially Kevin, want anything to divert our attention from our focus on serving as a leading educational organization."

In a separate statement, Clash said: "I am resigning from Sesame Workshop with a very heavy heart."

"Personal matters have diverted attention away from the important work Sesame Street is doing and I cannot allow it to go on any longer," he added in the statement sent by his publicist Risa Heller.

"I am deeply sorry to be leaving and am looking forward to resolving these personal matters privately."

"Sesame Street," which first appeared on public television in November 1969, teaches children the basics of reading, writing and counting.



PARIS -- Multiple rounds of international sanctions are failing to have any effect on Iran's controversial nuclear program, the head of the UN atomic agency said yesterday. Uranium enrichment lies at the heart of the international community's concerns about Iran's nuclear program, since the material produced can be used not only for peaceful purposes -- Iran's stated intention -- but also, when further treated, for a nuclear bomb. The UN Security Council has passed six resolutions calling on Iran to suspend all enrichment, passing four rounds of sanctions.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Argentina strike again challenges Kirchner

**BUENOS AIRES (AFP)** - Road and air transport delays plagued Argentina yesterday as President Cristina Kirchner, her approval rating in free fall, faced the second mass protest in as many weeks.

After tens of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets on November 8 to complain about inflation and high crime rates, unions called a 24-hour general strike over taxes, led by a union boss once allied with Kirchner.

"There are hundreds of road blocks across the country," said one of the strike organizers, Oscar de Isasi, as he appealed for the government to "change course."

Road blocks cut off main access routes into the capital Buenos Aires, causing traffic jams, while domestic flights were canceled at the city's Aeroparque airport. One subway line also came to a stand-

still.

Chilean airline LAN announced it would scrap flights within Argentina scheduled to take off before 4 pm, as well as seven regional flights headed to and originating from Sao Paulo, Lima and the Chilean capital Santiago.

Behind the strike is the powerful head of the opposition faction of Argentina's CGT labor federation Hugo Moyano, who backed Kirchner until last year. A splinter group of the CTA union also called for the strike. The union activists want lower income taxes.

The November 8 demonstration reflected the loss of faith among the middle class in Kirchner, who last year won re-election with 54 percent of the vote.

Argentina's growth rate fell from nine percent in 2011 to just 2.2 percent this year, according to the World Bank.

### FARC: Colombian peace talks moving at 'a good pace'

**HAVANA (AFP)** - Peace talks between the Colombian government and leftist FARC rebels are progressing at a "good pace," a guerrilla delegate said on the second day of closed-door talks yesterday in Cuba.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) declared a two-month ceasefire on the first day of the Havana talks Monday in an optimistic sign for the latest effort to end Latin America's longest-running insurgency.

"We are progressing at a good pace, on a good path, making sure that the people are fully participating in this process of building peace," FARC commander Jesus Santrich said as he arrived at

the talks.

The Colombian government delegation, led by former vice president Humberto de la Calle, entered the convention center where the talks are being held without talking to reporters.

Negotiations were formally launched in Oslo on October 18 in a bid to end a half-century-old conflict that has left 600,000 people dead and displaced four million more.

The last bid to forge a peaceful resolution ended in failure a decade ago.

The government of Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos has said it will continue operations against the rebels until a comprehensive deal is reached.

### Church of England rejects women bishops

**LONDON (AFP)** - The Church of England's draft legislation approving women bishops failed to pass its governing body the General Synod by a razor-thin margin yesterday.

The legislation needed a two-thirds majority among the three houses of bishops, clergy

and laity, but failed by just six voters among the laity.

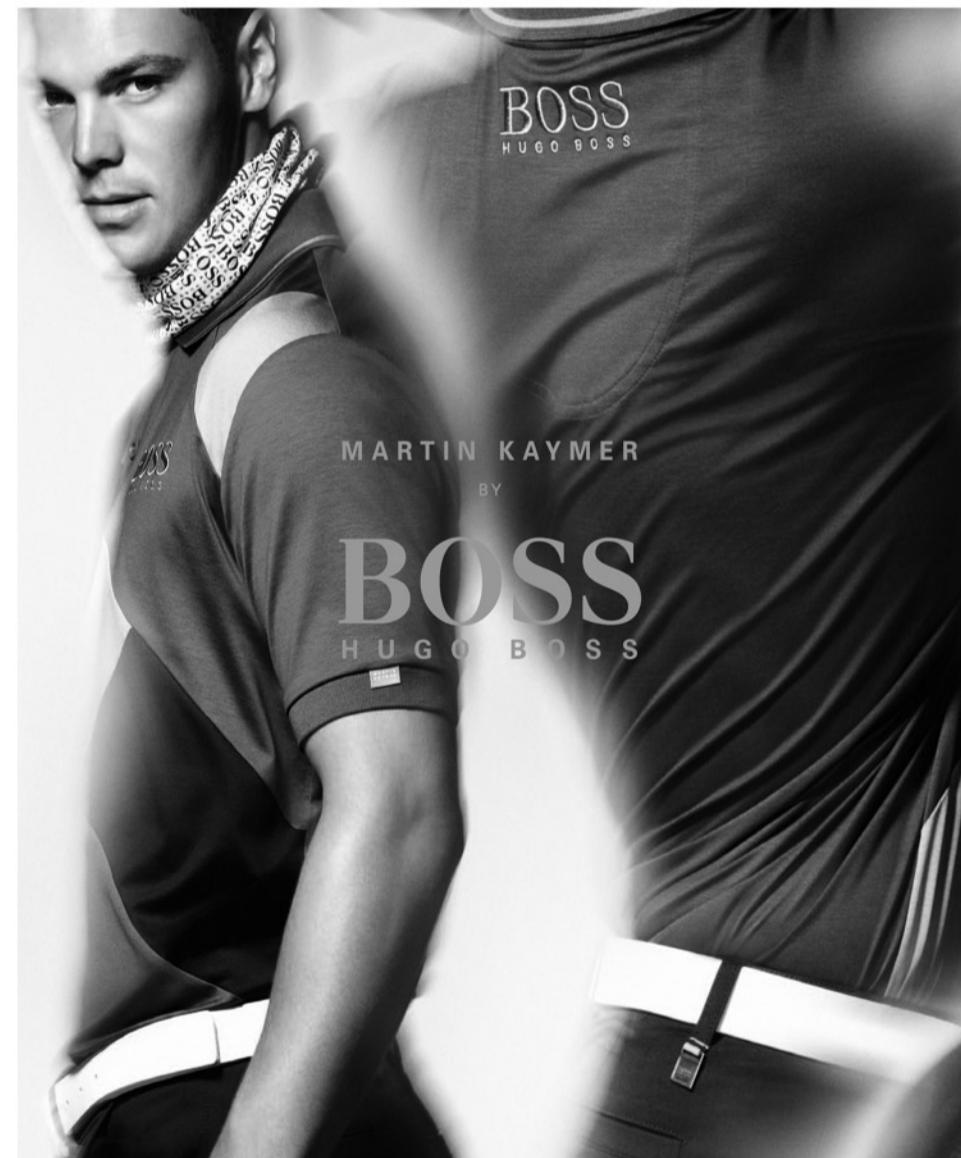
Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of Chelmsford, told reporters: "I'm hugely disappointed. This is going to be very hard for people in the wider church and the wider world to understand.

"I'm not sure what's going

to happen next.

"We need to do a lot of work to persuade the lay people of Synod that there is a way forward on this together.

Church of England bishops were to host an emergency session this morning to consider the consequences of the vote.



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## Health & Living

### AIDS deaths plunge: UN

GENEVA (AFP) - Deaths from HIV/AIDS have fallen sharply in sub-Saharan Africa in recent years, with particular progress made on protecting children from the deadly virus, the UN said.

"Between 2005 and 2011, the number of people dying from AIDS-related causes in sub-Saharan Africa declined by 32 percent, from 1.8 million to 1.2 million," the UN's programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) said in its annual report on the state of the global pandemic.

The number of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa, which remains the epicentre of the crisis, meanwhile plunged 25 percent over 10 years, from 2.4 million in 2001 to 1.8 million last year, according to the report published ahead of World AIDS Day on December 1.

Despite the progress made to bring down the infection rate in the region, sub-Saharan Africa still counts 23.5 million people living with HIV, or 69 percent of the global total, according to the report.

Women are disproportionately affected, accounting for 58 percent of all HIV infec-

tions in sub-Saharan Africa, and, alarmingly, 92 percent of all pregnant women in the world who live with the virus were in the region.

Yet particular progress had been made in bringing down the number of children newly infected with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa -- a region that today is home to 90 percent of the world's infected youngsters, UNAIDS said.

Between 2009 and 2011, the number of children in the region infected with the virus that causes AIDS dropped 24 percent, with a number of countries, including Kenya and South Africa, seeing falls of between 40 and 59 percent.

UNAIDS, which spearheads the international fight against AIDS, said that low and middle-income countries in the region had increased their HIV prevention investment by 15 percent from 2010 to 2011.

In 21 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, external funding sources account for more than 50 percent of HIV investments, while other countries including South Africa and Botswana provided more than 75 percent of their own expenditure, UNAIDS said.



GOTHENBURG (AFP) : This undated police handout photo made available on November 20, 2012, shows a human skull in a bed found in the apartment of a 37-year-old woman in Gothenburg, southern Sweden. The Swedish woman was charged with possession of human skulls and bones, which the prosecution claimed she used for sexual purposes. The 37 year-old woman kept at least six skulls, one spine and "a large number of other bones" in her Gothenburg apartment, according to the prosecution's charge sheet.



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### Britain defends shooting pigs for army medic training

LONDON (AFP) - Britain's Ministry of Defence yesterday defended its practice of shooting pigs and giving the wounded animals to military surgeons to practice treating common battlefield injuries.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals spokesperson Klare Kennett said the training exercises, which take place twice a year in Denmark, were "abhorrent and shocking".

"Pigs are intelligent animals and most people would be appalled by this, especially as there is an alternative available which does not involve harming any animals," she said.

The ministry said the training gave surgeons "invaluable experience" and "helped save lives on operations".

The animals are heavily anaesthetised before being shot at close range "to damage organs but not kill the animals", and are then operated on before being killed humanely, the ministry said.

"This training has helped save lives on operations and by participating in the Danish exercises we minimise the overall number of animals used," a spokesperson said.

### Dengue vaccine to be tested in India: reports

NEW DELHI (AFP) - French health care giant Sanofi Pasteur will soon test a vaccine against dengue fever in India amid concerns about the increasingly global spread of the disease.

The vaccine will be tried on about 120 adults followed by trials on children before it can be made available internationally as soon as 2015, the Times of India newspaper said.

Dengue causes a flu-like illness for most victims but one of its strains can cause life-threatening internal bleeding.

There is no licensed vaccine to protect against dengue. Efforts to develop one have been complicated by the fact that there are four different strains, all of which may circulate in an outbreak zone.



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## Sci-Tech

### CIA closes dedicated climate change unit

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The CIA has shuttered its unit dedicated to studying the impact of climate change on national security, shifting its activities elsewhere, an official said Tuesday.

"As part of a broader realignment of analytic resources, this work continues to be performed by a dedicated team in a new office that looks at economic and energy matters affecting America's national security," said CIA spokesman Todd Ebitz.

"The mission and the resources devoted to it remain essentially unchanged."

The Center on Climate Change and National Security was founded in 2009 under the leadership of then CIA director Leon Panetta, who now heads the Pentagon.

It was aimed at studying

the security ramifications of climate-related issues such as desertification, rising sea levels, migration and competition for natural resources.

Republican members of the US Congress, many of whom doubt the scientifically accepted evidence that climate change is underway, have opposed the unit since its establishment and unsuccessfully sought to block funding for it.

Panetta was replaced in September 2011 by David Petraeus.

Under former president George W. Bush, the United States, one of the world's biggest polluters, opposed international measures such as the Kyoto Treaty designed to slow global warming.

President Barack Obama has now vowed a new push for action on the matter in his sec-

ond term, saying the United States had a duty to come together to curb emissions in the wake of last month's devastating Superstorm Sandy.

Some US lawmakers take issue with the view of most scientists that industrial emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are causing the planet to warm.

Word of the center's closure comes just days before the opening of an international conference in Doha on global warming.



HONG KONG : A man walks past an illuminated display outside an Apple store in Hong Kong on November 20, 2012. Global sales of "smart devices," which include smartphones and tablets, will hit 821 million worldwide this year and 1.2 billion in 2013, a research firm said.

### Record number back UN vote against death penalty

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - A record 110 countries on Monday backed a resolution voted every two years at the UN General Assembly calling for the abolition of the death penalty. The United States, Japan, China, Iran, India, North Korea and Syria were among 39 countries to vote against the non-binding resolution in the assembly's rights committee. Thirty-six countries abstained. At the last vote in 2010, 107 countries backed the resolution.

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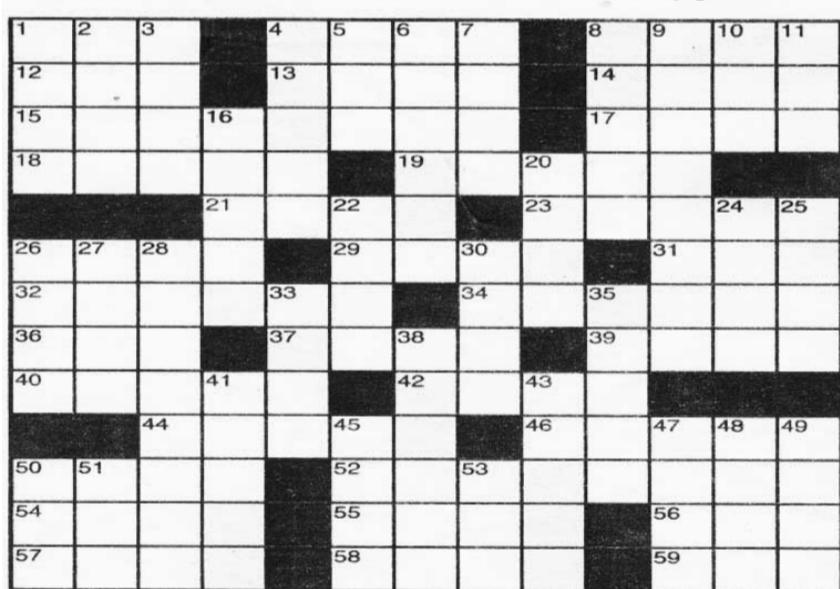
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## ACROSS

- "The \_\_\_ is up!"
- Cummer-bund's kin
- Cabbage dish
- "You \_\_\_ My Sunshine"
- LaToya's brother
- Jolt, for one
- Rocker Eddie
- France's busiest airport
- Ames's "Meet Me in St. Louis" costar
- Evil one
- Coral conglomeration
- Office equipment
- AMA or NAACP
- Depraved
- Cry of scorn
- Like Sir Galahad
- Stir up, as a riot
- "\_\_\_ to Steal a Million"
- Start of Lawrence Welk's count
- Jungle beasts
- Revolutionary Allen
- OPEC member
- Choir accompaniment
- Domesticates
- Credit or calling



## LEAVING, ON A...

- Ebony
- Ditto
- Diva's offering
- "In \_\_\_ beginning..."
- Malt drink
- Bolster the team
- Drag along behind
- Teatime treat
- Title for a master
- "\_\_\_ of Me"
- Manner
- Rhino features
- Paradise
- Equal
- She was much-photographed at the 2012 Olympics
- Women and ships
- Discomfort
- Used a Pentax
- Makeshift table support
- Fibber
- Astronaut's quaff
- Dismal Swamp waterway
- Pedro pays the piper with it
- Burning
- Facing the pitcher
- Not quite shut
- Damon of "All the Pretty Horses"
- Grand Canyon feedback
- Move obliquely
- Bandleader Calloway
- Beer's cousin
- Uncle, to Tomás

## DOWN

SOLUTION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
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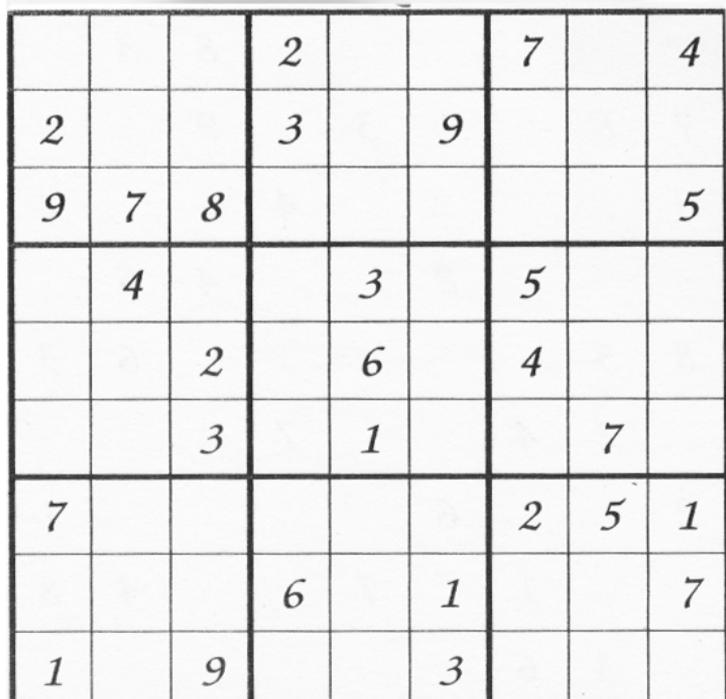
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In Oranjestad:  
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582-5447  
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## SOLUTION

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
3	6	4	9	8	2	5	1	7
7	8	9	1	4	6	3	2	5
9	1	2	6	7	4	8	3	5
5	4	7	8	3	2	5	1	9
6	7	8	1	4	6	3	2	5
2	5	4	3	7	9	1	6	8
3	6	1	2	8	5	7	9	4



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## Finance

### Bernanke warns about fiscal cliff, spending cutbacks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke warned yesterday that the looming 'fiscal cliff' tax hikes and spending cuts "pose a substantial threat" to the country's economic recovery.

With government leaders locked in crunch talks on avoiding the cliff and slashing the budget deficit, Bernanke also said that the rising cuts to federal government spending were already holding back economic growth.

"Congress and the administration will need to protect the economy from the full brunt of the severe fiscal tightening at the beginning of next year that is built into current law -- the so-called fiscal cliff," the US central bank chief said in a speech in New York.

"The realization of all of the automatic tax increases and spending cuts that make up the fiscal cliff, absent offsetting changes, would pose a substantial threat to the recovery," he said.

"Indeed, by the reckoning of the Congressional Budget Office and that of many outside observers, a fiscal shock of that size would send the economy toppling back into recession."

He said the Fed already views growth as disappointingly slow and troubled by threats from the eurozone crisis, slow job creation and the reticence of banks to loosen lending standards -- which Bernanke said is holding back recovery in the housing sector.

On top of that, he said, "the phasing-out of earlier stimulus programs and policy actions to reduce the federal budget deficit have led federal fiscal policy to begin restraining GDP growth."

"Indeed, under almost any plausible scenario, next year the drag from federal fiscal policy on GDP growth will outweigh the positive effects on growth from fiscal expansion at the state and local level."

### Rogue UBS trader who lost \$2.3bn jailed for seven years



LONDON (AFP) - UBS trader Kweku Adoboli was jailed for seven years in London yesterday for gambling away \$2.3 billion of the Swiss bank's money in Britain's biggest ever fraud. The Ghanaian-born banker, 32, had been found guilty of two counts of fraud by a jury at Southwark Crown Court earlier yesterday but cleared of four charges of false accounting. The judge said Adoboli would serve half his sentence before being released on licence. Adoboli wiped away tears as he was sentenced. He had admitted the losses but denied any wrongdoing.

## EU's Van Rompuy to make new bid to save EU budget summit

BRUSSELS (AFP) - European Union president Herman Van Rompuy said yesterday he will draft a fresh proposal on the bloc's contested trillion-euro budget in hopes of saving an extraordinary summit this week from collapse.

In an invitation to the EU's 27 leaders, Van Rompuy pledged "a revised version" of controversial proposed cuts to the EU budget for 2014-2020 to be considered when leaders begin the two-day talks Thursday evening.

Austerity-driven nations led by British Prime Minister

David Cameron are demanding huge cuts to EU spending to match domestic belt-tightening, but face opposition from poorer nations to the east and south who benefit from the Brussels budget.

Run-up talks to Thursday's budget summit have exposed stark divisions between EU nations that threaten more trauma for the bloc after three years of economic crisis.

"Let there be no mistake: the absence of an agreement would be harmful for all of us," Van Rompuy said amid talk of a possible summit col-

lapse. Following talks between Van Rompuy and European affairs ministers to seek a compromise, Cyprus, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, said there was progress towards a deal.

"We believe an agreement is possible," said the Cypriot European Affairs Minister Andreas Mavroyiannis. "All of us must go the extra mile."

ut Sweden, which along with the Netherlands and Finland back Britain's demand for better spending, called for more steep cuts.

## Hollande says France must 'stay the course' after Moody's downgrade

PARIS (AFP) - French President Francois Hollande warned the country yesterday that it must "stay the course" and stick with a policy of straightening out the public accounts after Moody's stripped France of its coveted "Aaa" rating.

"We must take account (of the decision), pursue our policy, stay the course and understand that it is in our interest to correct our public accounts," Hollande told a gathering of French mayors.

He spoke less than a day after Moody's became the second of three leading agencies to cut its ratings on French government bonds, owing among other factors to the country's poor economic prospects, rigid labour markets, and financial risks from the eurozone debt crisis.

France has benefitted in re-

cent months from ultra-low borrowing rates, and Hollande is keen to maintain that advantage as he tries to cut the public deficit and debt. To do so he must convince financial markets that he is serious about reforming the economy.

"This is what allows us to have interest rates that we have not seen for years on our sovereign debt," the French president noted.

He pointed out that even after the downgrade, which left France's rating at a very high level, "interest rates did not move and the spread with German rates remained exactly the same."

The difference between the rate a country must pay to borrow money on sovereign debt markets and that paid by Germany, the eurozone benchmark, is a common indicator of market confidence.

In January, Standard and Poor's was the first leading ratings agency to withdraw its highest rating on French debt, and Moody's followed suit late Monday, lowering its rating by one notch from the top "Aaa" to "Aa1".

Moody's also left its assessment of French debt on negative watch, which means it could lower the rating again in the future.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Daily Exchange Rates			
Current as of: 11/20/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques
			Selling Rate
	U.S.A. USD	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.78</b>
	Dutch Antilles ANG	<b>98.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
	Canada CAD	<b>1.77</b>	<b>1.79</b>
	Britian GBP	<b>2.77</b>	<b>2.82</b>
	Switzerland CHF	<b>189.17</b>	<b>189.89</b>
	Netherlands EUR	<b>226.07</b>	<b>228.13</b>
	Sweden SEK	<b>25.40</b>	<b>26.12</b>
	Denmark DKK	<b>29.62</b>	<b>30.34</b>
	Norway NOK	<b>30.14</b>	<b>30.86</b>
	Japan JPY	<b>216.56</b>	<b>218.54</b>
	(per 10,000)		<b>220.74</b>
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**Pope Benedict XVI publishes last volume of Jesus bio -**  
VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Benedict XVI has published the third and last volume of his biography of Jesus Christ, a touching and highly personal work written under the theologian pope's own name of Joseph Ratzinger. The book is written by Ratzinger rather than Pope Benedict XVI, meaning that it is an academic work rather than dogma that cannot be contradicted. "Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives" goes on sale today.

**Malaysia seizes \$7.1 mln 'cocaine cocktail' from ship -**  
KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) - Malaysian narcotics agents have foiled a Nigerian syndicate's bid to smuggle cocaine worth \$7.1 million hidden in coconut milk cans, a top police official said Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, authorities found the drugs in a container at the country's top port, Port Klang, he said. It had arrived on a ship from Guyana last Monday. Noor Rashid said the liquid drugs seized could produce about 76 kilogrammes (168 pounds) of cocaine when processed.

**Charlie Chaplin hat and cane net more than \$62,000 -**  
LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Charlie Chaplin's iconic bowler hat and cane were auctioned off for \$62,500 this weekend, as part of an auction which also includes a John Lennon nude drawing of himself and Yoko Ono. The hat and cane, trademark of Chaplin's Little Tramp character, were in "remarkable condition" and had been estimated to go for between \$40,000 and \$60,000 at the sale by auction house Bonhams on Sunday. But when it went under the hammer, the sale price hit \$62,500 the auctioneers said. Legend has it that Chaplin came up with the tramp persona and wardrobe spontaneously one rainy afternoon in February 1914, seizing various wardrobe items in a communal male dressing room at a Hollywood studio.

**San Francisco to vote on public nudity ban -**  
SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - San Francisco lawmakers vote Tuesday on a proposal to outlaw most public nudity, despite protests in the famously free and easy West Coast city. The Board of Supervisors will vote on an ordinance proposed by Scott Wiener, whose Castro neighborhood is a gay haven known also for the Naked Guys, who routinely let it all hang out in public. A group of naked protesters demonstrated outside City Hall in support of the legal action, which claims that banning nudity would breach their right to free speech.

**Afghan opium poppy growth 'alarm signal': UN**  
KABUL (AFP) - Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased by 18 percent this year, sending a "serious alarm signal" from the world's biggest opium producer, the United Nations said Tuesday. Estimated opium production in the war-torn country fell 36 percent because of blight and bad weather. But the area under poppies rose despite tougher eradication efforts, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said in its annual report. Afghanistan produces about 90 percent of the world's opium, and poppy farmers are taxed by Taliban militants who use the cash to help fund their insurgency against the government and NATO forces.

## Dutch ditch controversial 'weed pass' law



THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch cities are to decide themselves whether to bar foreign drug tourists from so-called coffee-shops, after the government scrapped its unpopular "weed pass" law.

The move will allow Amsterdam to keep pulling in millions of foreign soft-drug users, while allowing border towns to clamp down on crime related to drug tourism.

The Dutch government an-

nounced a year ago that it was introducing a law to ban foreigners from entering dope-dealing "coffee-shops", also forcing local smokers to show identification and register in a database.

Called the "cannabis card" law, it rolled out in May in three southern Dutch provinces that attract many Belgian, French and German drug tourists.

The move was aimed at



**BISHOP (AFP) : This handout image provided by the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bishop Field Office in California on November 20, 2012 shows damage done to a petroglyph panel at a site on the Volcanic Tableland north of Bishop, California. The BLM is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest/conviction of the responsible individuals who vandalized the site. The perpetrators removed or damaged rock art at five locations within the site. Greg Haverstock, Bishop Field Office Archaeologist, said "the damaged site is a pristine example of Great Basin rock art and hunter-gatherer domestic, religious and subsistence activities. The location of archaeological materials, feature remains, and the rock art clearly portray the activities that occurred at the site during the past 3,500 years." The site is protected under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This site is one of the most significant rock art sites in the region and is still used by the local Paiute for ceremony.**

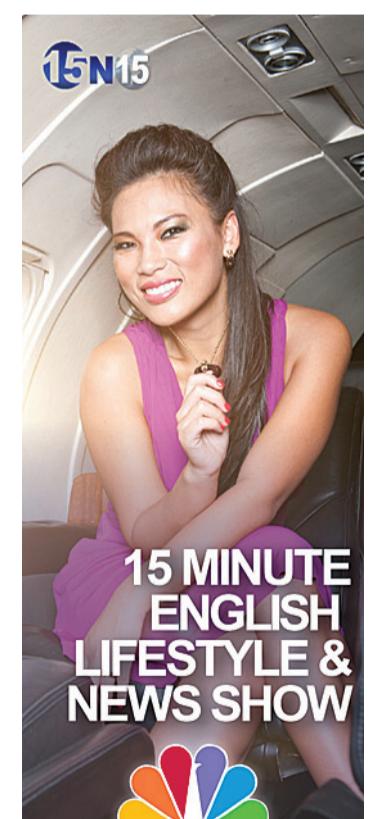
curbing drug-related phenomena like late-night revelry, traffic jams and dealing in hard drugs.

But its critics said it simply pushed drug peddling onto the streets of southern cities like Maastricht and Tilburg and led to a rise in crime.

Coffee-shop owners in the south were pleased that tourists could now at least buy drugs somewhere, but lamented the fact that their own establishments remained off-limits.

Away from the Dutch border cities -- which suffer most from drug-tourism related incidents -- Amsterdam said it would simply keep allowing foreigners access.

Roughly a fifth of the city's seven million annual visitors visit one or more of its 220 cannabis cafes.



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## Budget Car Rental celebrating 50 yrs budget-minded service!



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Budget has a fleet of 250

autos on Aruba, ranging from subcompact to authentic Jeep Wrangler® hardtop 4X4 or the stylish Toyota Rav 4, for exploring Aruba's outback in air-conditioned comfort. Their standard Toyota Yaris, the most popular model, is known for quality and dependability. Each year, they refresh 25% of their fleet and retire the older cars. Compared to the U.S., car rentals are quite affordable on

Aruba, with the third party liability insurance included in the rental rates, as required by law.

Budget's head office is in Camacuri, not far from the airport, but they maintain an outlet right at the airport and another conveniently located in the Arawak Gardens in Palm Beach, an easy stroll from all the Palm Beach resorts. Budget will provide free transportation to their Arawak

Gardens outlet from any hotel, and return you to your door when turning in your car.

A Toyota Yaris rents for \$174 for the week; there is an additional airport concession fee to have a car available immediately on arrival, but this is balanced out by the cost of roundtrip fares to most resorts, and on weekly rentals is a decided savings.

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## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying

because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual

and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island en-

vironment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip



the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

## SPORTS

## Football: Messi double as Barca qualify for last 16

MOSCOW (AFP) - Lionel Messi continued his prodigious goalscoring form with a brace as Barcelona qualified for the last 16 of the Champions League with a 3-0 win over Spartak Moscow who have been eliminated.

After Dani Alves had put them ahead after 16 minutes, Messi bagged his double before half time to extend Barca's lead at the top of Group G although Celtic, who face Benfica later, can still overtake them if they win their last two games and Barca slip-up.

Messi, who was top scorer in the competition for a record fourth time last season, now has five goals from five games and he has 80 for the calendar year as he pursues Gerd Muller's 85 playing for Bayern Munich and Germany in 1972.

And he moved level with Ruud van Nistelrooy on 56 Champions League goals behind Raul, the competition's all time scorer with 71.

Messi though was as unassuming as ever after the game.

"My aim was just to get the ball, create chances and that we win the game, that is what is important," he said.

We knew we couldn't afford to make mistakes after what happened against Celtic and that we had to go out strongly even though it is difficult to play away in this competition."

Barca had lost their previous match away to Celtic 2-1 despite dominating possession but were unable to make the most of their chances.

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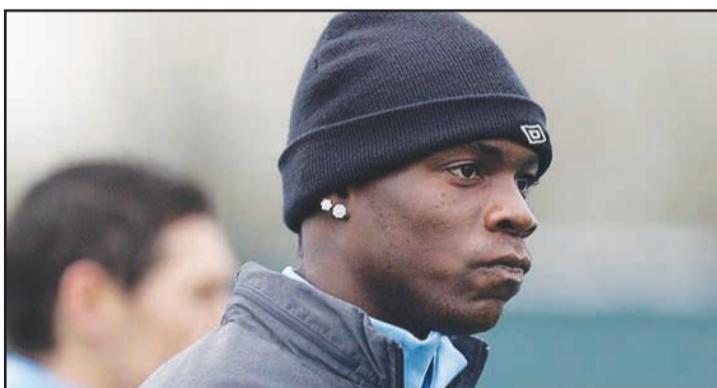
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## Football: Mancini warns Balotelli ahead of Madrid test



MANCHESTER, United Kingdom (AFP) - Manchester City coach Roberto Mancini has told troublesome striker Mario Balotelli that hard work is the only thing that can turn him into one of the world's leading players.

Mancini's concerns over Balotelli's attitude saw him dropped for the recent 2-1 victory at home to Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League.

A back injury subsequently prevented him from taking part in the 5-0 demolition of Aston Villa on Saturday, and means he is doubtful for today's must-win clash with Real Madrid in the Champions League.

The decision to exclude Balotelli from the squad for the Spurs game prompted rumours the 22-year-old could be set to leave the club, but Mancini says he has no intention of showing his Italian countryman the door.

Mancini, who gave Balotelli his debut at Inter Milan, has remained loyal to the player despite a series of headline-grabbing incidents in

the two and a half years since he joined the club.

City must beat Spanish champions Madrid at the Etihad Stadium on Wednesday to stand any chance of avoiding a group-stage exit for the second year in succession.

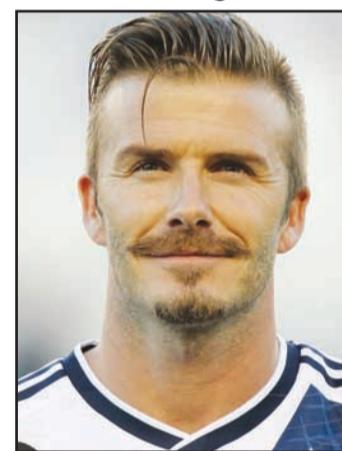
## Beckham to play last game with Galaxy

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Football legend David Beckham says he will play his final game with the Los Angeles Galaxy when the Major League Soccer club hosts Houston in a league match next month, but where he goes from there remains a mystery.

The 37-year-old former England captain and veteran of three World Cups notably did not mention anything about retiring from the sport.

The football superstar has spent the past six seasons with the Galaxy, leading Los Angeles to an MLS Cup title last season when they defeated the Houston Dynamo 1-0.

Beckham and the Galaxy go for their second consecutive crown when they face the Dynamo in a repeat of last year's



final on December 1 at the Home Depot Center.

There have been reports out of Australia that their professional league was trying to woo him to make a move down under and there was an immediate statement of intent from Melbourne Heat with chief executive Scott Munn saying the club would make an offer.

There has also been some interest from European clubs with Qatari-backed Paris Saint Germain having come close to signing Beckham earlier this year and he spent two short loan spells at AC Milan in 2009 and 2010.

A return to the Premier League in England, however, appeared to be highly unlikely.



WASHINGTON: Washington Wizards mascot G-Man performs during the Wizards and Indiana Pacers game at Verizon Center on November 19, 2012 in Washington, DC. Wizards haven't won a game in nine tries this season. They lost 96-89.

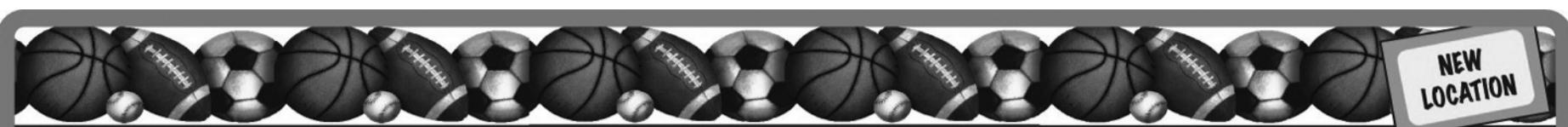
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## NFL: Kaepernick carries 49ers over Bears

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AFP) - Quarterback Colin Kaepernick made his first career start count by throwing a pair of touchdown passes as the San Francisco 49ers routed the Chicago Bears 32-7 on Monday night.

Kaepernick went 16-for-23 for 243 yards and led San Francisco to scores on their first four possessions.

The 49ers defense gave Kaepernick lots of help. The defense held Chicago to just 151 yards and pressured Bears quarterback Jason Campbell all night long.

Second-year linebacker Aldon Smith recorded 4 1/2 sacks, and the 49ers finished



with five sacks along with two interceptions and a safety.

Campbell made his first start of the season in place of Jay Cutler, who suffered a concussion in last week's loss to the Texans.

Campbell struggled Monday

as he completed just 14-of-22 passes for 107 yards and a touchdown. He also had two interceptions.

Chicago dropped their second consecutive game to fall into a tie with Green Bay for first place in the NFC North.

## Melky Cabrera Signs Contract



TORONTO - Former San Francisco Giants' outfielder Melky Cabrera has officially signed on a two year \$16 million contract with the Toronto Blue Jays. After missing a 50 games suspension season was not wanted back by the World Series champion San Francisco Giants. The 28-year-old was leading the National League in hitting at .346 when he was suspended Aug. 15. He asked for a rules change that disqualified him from the batting title, feeling it would be a tainted crown. Cabrera had 11 homers, 25 doubles and 60 RBIs in 113 games. Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos said a lot of players have received second chances in baseball. He said there won't be a third or fourth. Cabrera made his major league debut in 2005 with the New York Yankees and stayed with them until being traded to Atlanta after the 2009 season.

## Divi Aruba Int'l. ....

*continued from page 16*



Masters winner Marco Sa and Joao Bruno



men's intermediate Hernan and Ramon Amado



Chucho of Senor Frogs shows off his autographed racket

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WEDNESDAY

## Alessandro Calbucci successfully defends his title at the *Divi Aruba International Beach Tennis Championships*



Champion Pro Alessandro Calbucci



Women's fun Fausta Luna and Maria Pucci First place

The Men's Pro Finals of the Divi Aruba International Beach Tennis Championships conducted at Senor Frog's provided a thrilling end to the five day tournament. The courtyard of the Village Mall in Palm Beach had been

converted to a beach tennis court, and international star, Alessandro Calbucci of Italy, last year's champion, battled it out against highly ranked Gui Prato of Brazil.

Senor Frog's provided lively entertainment during

the time-outs, and hundreds of spectators lined the court watch the tense match. Beach Tennis is a gritty sport, in every way imaginable. Tournament organizer and tennis pro Sjoerd de Vries, credited as being instrumental in popularizing the sport in the western hemisphere, provided wry commentary throughout the match.

Alessandro Calbucci successfully defended his title against Gui Prato, and claimed the giant bottle of champagne and the largest cash prize of the tournament. He and his teammate, Marco Gravini defeated Mateo Marighella and Luca Melliconi for the first place team title the day before.

Winners from this year's event, which featured 600 players from more than one dozen countries around the world, were given their medals at the end of the final match. Single's first place winners in Fun, Intermediate and Advanced Division for Women were Maria Pucci, Kim Vogel, and Patricia Diaz. There was no professional category for women.

The Men's winners, Fun, Intermediate, and Advanced were Milko Biaz, Hirnan Amaco of Puerto Rico, who defeated his brother Ramon for the title, and 19-year-old Francisco De Altar of Brazil, who judges dubbed "a future superstar of beach tennis."



Women's Intermediate Kim Vogel and Suzan Toone



Women's advanced Patricia Diaz and Laoy Corea

In the Master's Match for over 50 players, Mario Sa defeated João Bruno for the gold medal.

Full listings of all the winners from the Divi Aruba International Beach Tennis Tournament can be found on

the Beach Tennis Aruba website: <http://www.beachtennisaruba.com/> or their Facebook page, with exciting video of the matches.

by Rosalie Klein  
(more pictures on pg 15)

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